

**From:** melissa MUNHALL

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 22, 2003 8:11 PM

**To:** adoptionregs@state.gov

**Subject:** Hague Convention

I am writing as an adoptive parent who wishes to urge the U.S. State Department to ratify the proposed regulations of the Hague Convention. As opportunities for domestic adoption of healthy infants within the U.S. is extremely limited, and if it does occur requires a very lengthy wait of sometimes years, the Hague Convention would open up new opportunities for international adoption by U.S. citizens. Many countries, such as Bolivia and Slovakia, would be willing to permit Americans to adopt their orphans if the U.S. ratifies the regulations of the Hague Convention. I, in particular, of Slovakian ancestry, would be quite interested in pursuing an adoption in Slovakia, but at present, my husband and I are not permitted to pursue a Slovakian adoption because we live in the U.S. We also have concerns about the possible abuses of international adoptions by adoption agencies here in the U.S., as well as the foreign countries these children are adopted through. Many foreign countries face tough economic situations, and the possibilities for abuses by both birthparents and foreign governments are quite real, and sadly, adoptions can be completed as a means of income for them. Please support the Hague Convention and decide to join the many countries who have decided to put an end to international adoption abuses.

Sincerely, Tom and Melissa Munhall

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